

REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 47-49, and 51-81 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 5, 6, 15, 49, 51, and 52 are amended. Claims 57-81 are added.

Claims 1 and 50 are cancelled hereby without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 16-31 and 35-39 were cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein by Applicant's second preliminary amendment filed March 1, 2004. Claims 32-34 and 40-46 were cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein in Applicant's response to restriction requirement filed November 5, 2004. Applicant reserves the right to refile these cancelled claims and contest the rejections thereof in one or more subsequent applications. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objections and rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, 49, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakami (U.S. Pat. No. 5,601,100). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 1, 5, and 50, and amendment to claim 49 have rendered moot the rejections thereof. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejections.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 53-56 stand allowed.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action states that claims 2-4, 6-15, 47, 48, 51, and 52 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claims 2, 6, 51, and 52 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 (and claims 3-5 depending therefrom), claim 6 (and claims 7-15 depending therefrom), claim 51, and claim 52 are in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 57-81 are supported by the application as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by the addition of claims 57- 81.

In addition, claims 57-81 each depend from an independent claim that is allowed or which has been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submits that dependent claims 57- 81 are also in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (314) 726-7502.

Applicant believes that the appropriate fees have been included with this filing. If, however, Applicant owes any additional fee(s), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee(s) to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**. In addition, if there is ever any other fee deficiency or overpayment under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 in connection with this patent application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiency or overpayment to Deposit Account No. **08-0750**.

Respectfully submitted,

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